Fixation of prices of Medicines

778. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines/yardsticks prescribed for fixation of prices of medicines;

(b) whether it is a fact that the drug manufacturing companies are charging exorbitant prices for pills and drugs;

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take against such companies; and

(d) the steps proposed to provide medicines at reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Prices of scheduled bulk drugs and formulations based thereon are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO), 1995. Prices of Non Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/ selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected. Moreover, the drugs policy, as amended from time to time, is directed towards ensuring abundant availability of quality drugs at reasonable prices.

Health care services for ex-servicemen

779. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that adequate health care services are not available for ex-servicemen;

(b) if so, whether Government have a proposal to enhance the health care facility for them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The Government have introduced a medical scheme known as Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme on the pattern of Central Government Health Scheme with effect from 1.4.2003. The scheme, contributory in nature, would cater for medicare of all ex-servicemen in receipt of pension including disability and family pensioners as also dependents to include wife/ husband, legitimate children and wholly dependent parents. The scheme would establish new armed forces polyclinics at 123 non-military stations and augmented armed forces clinics at 104 military stations spread across the country. The scheme will be implemented spread over a period of five years.

Licence for Chinese drugs

780. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after granting Registration Certificates to the Chinese suppliers the DCI office is not granting Form 10 import licence for the products like Rifampicin;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many applications are pending for more than two to three months, affecting the trade to a great extent; and

(c) the reasons for this kind of confusion prevailing in the department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) A new system of registration for foreign manufacturers of drugs for giving license for import of drugs has come into effect from 1.4.03. After the publication of the new requirements, a large number of applications were received for registration as well as issue of licenses. The DCG(I) office has issued 1517 Import Licenses on Form 10 during the period 1.10.2002 to 15.7.2003. The issuance of Form 10 is a continuous process and is subject to the provision of all required documents by the applicant. For disposal of applications of registration a time of nine months to one year has been provided. Licenses are normally issued within one month subject to all documents being in order.